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Correspondence.

SOCIAL MUSICAL MEETINGS.

To the Editor of the "Musical Times."

SIR,—While a portion of your periodical is usually devoted to notices of the musical performances of larger societies, perhaps the notice of a smaller, and a private one, may not be uninteresting to your readers, and possibly may lead (which is the object in sending this), to the formation of similar societies.

The Amateur Musical Society originated in the desire of a few music loving spirits to carry out this favorite pursuit in home circles. The opportunities of doing so in classes, or larger societies, though effective in their way, were not found to afford the variety, nor the comfort, which the former might be made to yield.

The plan was to hold meetings at the houses of some of the members; there are now four such, who kindly give every convenience and comfort required. The cost of music is defrayed by a small subscription. Visitors very few, and seldom listeners.

The earlier practices, being but few voices, aided by a pianiste, were confined to anthems, madrigals, and glees; extending gradually in numbers, masses and oratorios were performed. And now, including a somewhat equal proportion of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses, numbering about twenty-four, they concluded their eighth season with the following programme, being itself a fair specimen of those with which they have been indulged for twenty-four Monday evenings before and since Christmas last.

PART I.—Hymn, "Ancient of Ages," E. Flower—Part-Song "Pack clouds away," Hullah—Mass No. 4, Haydn.

PART II.—Psalms 2nd and 22nd (Post. Works, No. 6), Mendelssohn—Glees, "Blow, gentle gales," and "Now by day's retiring lamp," Bishop—Operatic Fragment, *Lorely* (Post. Works, No. 27), Mendelssohn—National Anthem, Wallace.

A short interval is appropriated between the parts for slight refreshment, its freedom from costliness being a decided recommendation, and its value resting chiefly in the opportunity afforded for more direct interchange of good feeling between the members.

At the close of the performance, the expressions of hearty satisfaction at the progress and utility of the society were general, tinged with regret at its close, and determination to carry it forward in the future.

Such is a sketch of operations in which, by the fireside circle, all the chains of friendly intercourse are combined with the study of works of the great masters, giving to their lovely strains a fitting habitation in the hearts and memories of those who, by practice, seek to become familiar with them; and if not literally, in spirit tending to swell that strain of which it has been sung—

"On Heaven's golden lamp ascending,
Happy hearts and voices blending,
Joyful anthems chant to thee,
Te Laudamus Domine."

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

C. J., Secretary.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal will in future be published fortnightly on the 1st and 15th of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Erratum. Page 377, 25th and 28th lines, for Mr. Hatton, read Mr. Staton.

A lover of Handel will find an account of *Handel's life* in *Sir John Hawkins's History of Music*, at page 856 (8vo. Edition).

C. G., "On Time," had better apply to the author, and get the movements marked by the metronome; by which he will ascertain the precise time in which each movement should be taken.

S. M., Oldham—J. H. C., Burnley—should ask trade questions of our publishers in their own names and addresses.

Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

READING.—On Easter Monday, two public amateur performances were given by the members who form the choir of St. Mary's Church, under the conduct of Mr. Dawson, the organist; and were attended by large audiences.

MANCHESTER.—We have been favored with the programme of the performance on the 17th of April, of the Madrigal Society. Much additional interest is given by the explanatory and biographical notices prefixed to each piece on the list.

DUBLIN.—Much interest has been taken in the first performance of the oratorio *Abraham*, set to music by Mr. G. W. Torrance, formerly a choir boy in Christchurch Cathedral, and now organist of Carysfort Church, Black Rock. The ancient concert hall was overflowing filled on the occasion.—On Friday evening, the 13th of April, Spohr's *Last Judgment*, and various works by Mozart, Handel, Mendelssohn, and Palestrina, were performed at the University Concert here. Chorus and orchestra about 150. Miss Cruise, Miss Balfé, Messrs. Dunne, Geay, and Robinson were the solo performers. Dr. Stewart conducted.

M. ALEXANDRE BILLET's third and last concert took place on the 13th of April; when he played, by desire, his own *Quatuor des Puritains*, which was warmly applauded. The *Caprice, La Truite*, of S. Heller, is a charming piece, and M. Billet's execution of it was very brilliant. M. Billet introduced to the public, Miss Amelia Taylor, a pupil of his, who played a grand duet for the pianoforte of Moscelles, in which she succeeded in pleasing her audience.

PRESTON.—Handel's oratorio of *Samson* was given by the Choral Society, at the Corn Exchange Assembly Room, on the 23rd of April, to a large audience. Conductor, Mr. Fawcett.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH'S VISIT.—Part of the entertainments at Buckingham Palace was a state concert on the 20th of April; in which the following singers sang: Mesdames Clara Novello, Bosio, Viardot, and Didiée; Messrs. Gardoni, Weiss, Luchesi, and Formes. At the pianoforte, was Mr. Costa.

HASTINGS.—A Sacred Harmonic Society has been formed, for the practising of vocal rudiments, and for the cultivation of a taste in choral singing. Organist, and teacher of the class, Mr. T. Elliott.

LIVERPOOL.—Haydn's *Seasons* was produced for the first time in Liverpool, at the "Shilling Oratorios," Philharmonic Hall, on the 10th April.

BRIEF CHRONICLE.—Continued from page 384.

BIRMINGHAM.—In August, 1852, a few of the work people in the employ of R. W. Winfield, Esq., Cambridge Street Works, Birmingham, wished to form a musical society in connexion with the works; accordingly they asked for the use of the School Room (which is a neat Gothic building, erected for the purpose of giving evening instruction to the boys employed in the works). The use of the School Room was readily granted, together with the use of the organ, which is now, by the kindness of J. I. Winfield, Esq., being considerably enlarged, &c. The society has had many trials to contend with, but is now steadily progressing; conducted in a very able and kind manner, by Mr. William Langston. The Society at the present time consists of twenty females, twenty males, and two flutes; two violins and two basses lately joined the society. Herewith I enclose a programme of a concert given March the 19th, for the relief of distressed persons known to the workpeople, and recommended by them for relief. A few more such societies would have a very beneficial effect, not only by bringing the employer and employed more closely together (which they certainly do); but by the tendency they have to elevate the mind above the common pothouse or saloon.—*From a Correspondent.*

HEREFORD.—The last of the concerts in the College Hall took place on the 9th of April.

SIR HENRY BISHOP.—A second series of afternoon vocal concerts, commencing on the 21st of April, have been given at Hanover Square Rooms, under Sir Henry's personal direction and superintendence; and consisting wholly of his own admirable compositions.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The Choral Harmonic Society gave a Concert on the 17th April, when selections from Mozart's 12th Mass, and his first motett, and other anthem music, were performed under the direction of Mr. Ridgeway.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE.—On the 9th April, the members of the Harmonic Institution gave their second Concert at the Town Hall, which was numerously attended. The orchestra consisted of 12 violins, 3 violoncellos, 1 double-bass, 4 flutes, 1 piccolo, 1 clarinet, 4 cornet à pistons, 1 tenor saxhorn, 1 ophicleide, and a pianoforte; which were supported by the vocal performers, together numbering nearly 70. It was led by Mr. S. Partridge.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—The annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*, which this Society present to their subscribers, took place on the 23rd April. The singers who gave their services on the occasion were, Madame Clara Novello, Madame Weiss, Miss Dolby, Mrs. Lockey; Messrs. Lockey, Benson, Augustus Braham, Signor Belletti, Mr. Lawler, and Mr. Weiss. Conductor, Mr. Costa.

COVENTRY.—Mr. Partridge commenced a second series of Concerts for the People on the 24th April.

BAYSWATER.—An Amateur Musical Entertainment, on the 12th, was given in the National Schoolroom, for the benefit of the Ragged Schools, consisting of selections from Mozart's 12th Mass, Haydn's *Creation*, and Handel's *Messiah*.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. Friend's Concert on the 10th April had been looked forward to with considerable interest, as being the first Concert held in the new room. The services of Miss Birch and Miss Lascelles, with Mr. Land and Mr. F. Bodda, were secured, together with the Choral Society; and on the evening of the Concert, the town presented somewhat of a holiday appearance—hundreds wending their way down Vicar-street. About 1000 were present.

WORCESTER.—Monday Evening Concerts. The first of these took place on the 16th April, when nearly four hundred persons were present.—Philharmonic Concert. This Concert took place on the 13th April, at which Sig. Regondi played solos on both the concertina and guitar.

STROUD.—Mr. Copley has lately given two Concerts here, at which the Bearnais Singers appeared.—Mr. Evans gave a Concert of Classical Music; the vocalists were Mrs. Paget and Mr. Thomas.

COLOGNE.—Beethoven's *Missa Solennis* in D was given on Palm Sunday, in aid of the sufferers by the late Rhine inundations. M. Ferdinand Hiller took immense pains with the rehearsals; and the orchestra, with its chorus of amateurs, as nearly reached perfection as is possible in a work of such difficulty.

BOLTON.—On Easter Monday, April 9th, an interesting Musical Meeting took place in the Baptist Chapel in this town, upon which occasion the united choirs of the Baptist Chapel, Salford, and that connected with the former place of worship, met for the performance of a selection of Sacred Music. These choirs, which are composed wholly of amateurs, number fifty voices, and have been trained by their respective conductors upon similar plans. The programme consisted of a selection from the works of Handel, Mendelssohn, and others, most of which were executed with a precision and with intonation rarely heard amongst non-professionals. The value of your space forbids a lengthened criticism, but we cannot refrain from naming with approval the following ladies, who executed with great credit the parts assigned them, and who may be regarded as singers of considerable promise:—Misses Bury, Edmeston, Taylor, Coop, Leach, and Kay. Conductor on the occasion, Mr. J. Smethurst.—*From a Correspondent.*

PUDSEY (YORKSHIRE).—The performance of Mr. E. Sewell's *Jubilee Cantata*, (composed for the Centenary Jubilee of the United Brethren in Yorkshire) took place at Fulneck, on April 21st, with full band and chorus. Principal vocalists—Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Senior, Mrs. and Mr. Winn. Mr. Sewell conducted the performance.

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